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ON PAGE 16A

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
8 December 1977

Suit finds CIA spied on campus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA responded to harassment of its university recruiters in the 1960s by sending advance agents to campuses to find out whether the recruiters might expect violence, according to documents made available by a Freedom of Information Act suit.

The agency is prohibited by federal law from engaging in domestic spying.

The documents said that CIA agents developed campus informants, apparently attended some antiwar meetings, developed profiles on universities and colleges, became acquainted with campus security officer and local and state police, and read the school newspapers.

This information was used in recommending whether a scheduled recruitment session on a particular college campus should go ahead or be canceled. The recruiter could follow the advice as he chose.

Although the documents do not show a comprehensive effort by the CIA to spy on the university antiwar movement or on campus radicals, they do show that the agency was well aware that it was going beyond its authority in such action.

They show that then-CIA director Richard Helms acknowledged, in 1968 and 1969 memoranda to President Lyndon B. Johnson and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, that the CIA had entered "an area not within the charter of this agency" by includ-

ing activities of American student radicals in a report on student dissidents worldwide.

"I need not emphasize how extremely sensitive this makes the paper," Helms told Kissinger. "Should anyone learn of its existence it would prove most embarrassing for all concerned."

Helms also emphasized the "peculiar sensitivity" of the report in a memo to the President.

The report dated Jan. 5, 1968, states that dissidents on American campuses totaled no more than 30,000, that their activities were aimed at the military draft and Vietnam policies, and that their leaders were "bright young people" who used flexible and constantly changing tactics.

The report said that while Communist-front groups had been permitted to take part in some student organizations, they had not succeeded in controlling them.